

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Subregion:** SOUTH **County:** TULARE

**Applicant:** SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST

**Project Title:** VISITOR ACCESS AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION PLNA FOR BLUE OAK RANCH PRESERVE

**Reference Number:** SNC 070269

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Sequoia Riverlands Trust will develop and produce interpretative and educational materials for a preserve in Tulare County. Specifically, the Trust will:

- Conduct resource assessments to determine the prevalence of important biological, aquatic, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted or avoided by visitors;
- Develop a plan and partnership for providing outdoor education programs in cooperation with the Tulare County Office of Education's School of Science and Conservation (SCICON) Campus, which is adjacent to the site;
- Develop and produce a visitor access plan for the Blue Oak Ranch preserve, including:
  - Identify appropriate activities
  - Assess amenities and define additional needs
  - Develop and produce signage and interpretative materials
  - Define management methods for access and liability.

Upon completion of this planning effort the Blue Oak Ranch Preserve will be open to the public.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Initiate resource inventory at both preserves	April 2008 – July 2008
Develop baseline plan to be populated with inventory data	July 2008 – August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	September 2008
Conduct stakeholder meetings to determine essential components	September 2008 – November 2008
Initiate conversations with interested educational institutions	November 2008
Compile and finalize resource inventory data	November 2008 – February 2009
Complete and submit twelve month progress report to SNC	March 2009
Define level of participation from interested educational institutions	April 2009
Solicit feedback on concepts for visitor guide	April 2009 – June 2009
Finalize visitor guide and signage components and reproduce	June 2009 – August 2009
Complete eighteen month progress report and submit to SNC	September 2009
Finalize resource inventory and make available for public input	October 2009 – February 2010
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>March 2010</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Oversight, stakeholder meetings and visitor plan preparation	\$12,830
Resource Inventory	\$ 7,995
Development of partnership and coordination plan with SCICON Campus	\$ 1,643
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,468</b>

### Letters of Support:

- Tulare County Board of Supervisors District One

### Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at \$22,468. Amount was reduced from \$24,465 to remove the small site-improvement component of this planning project.

## Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070269 Blue Oak Ranch Visitor Access and Outdoor Education Plan)    SNC Grant Program: SOG 2

Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust [www.sequoiariverlands.org]    Visalia, CA

Title: Develop Visitor Access Plan for Blue Oak Ranch Preserve

Location: North Fork Tule River drainage, Tulare County

Contact: Dan Bell, Associate Director

Phone: (559) 738-0211    Email: dan@sequoiariverlands.org

Proposal: SRT is the primary land trust working in the southern Sierras with a sphere of influence that stretches from Kern to Fresno counties. SRT works to conserve the southern Sierra Nevada's natural and agricultural legacy. SRT owns and manages more than 4500 acres, with an additional 2500 acres protected under conservation easements. Where appropriate and managed, SRT provides public access and outdoor education programs on its nature preserves.

SRT requests that SNC fund a public access and interpretive education plan, along with limited improvements, for SRT's Blue Oak Ranch (BOR) Preserve. BOR comprises 928 acres of streamside forest and blue oak woodland. BOR is adjacent to Tulare County's SCICON facility- an outdoor science and conservation campus that reaches nearly 10,000 6th graders per year. Lack of appropriate planning and infrastructure currently make SRT's only Tule River watershed preserve unavailable for public recreation. A Visitor Access Plan would initiate SRT's development of compatible recreational access at BOR. Specific activities include:

- \* Identification of important aquatic, biological, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted or avoided by visitors
- \* Preparation of Visitor Access Plan (including recommendations for appropriate activities, amenities, signage, interpretive materials, managing access and liability)
- \* Develop recommendations to coordinate programs and provide access to Tulare County 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at SCICON campus
- \* Repair public access boardwalk overlooking pond and riparian areas

The proposal furthers SNC's Strategic and Program Goals of: (1) promoting private creation of recreational use on private land; (2) providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation; (3) protecting the resources; and (4) improving water quality.

This activity is consistent with SNC's Education and Communications Plan by supporting education programs that promote the importance of working landscapes and stewardship of natural resources.

TOTAL SNC REQUEST: \$24,465